



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Rwanda

Rwanda: Army Commander on Arrest of Genocide Suspect

EA1303105696 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English
0515 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The army commander of Kibuye [western Rwanda, on Lake Kivu] and Gitarama [central Rwanda] prefectures, Colonel (Balthazar Ndeginka), says that the arrest of Colonel Theoneste Bagosora is of paramount importance as far as it can lead to a thorough explanation of the atrocities that befell Rwanda in 1994.

Colonel (Balthazar Ndeginka), one of the closest people that worked with Colonel Theoneste Bagosora before and during the genocide, said in a Radio Rwanda interview yesterday that the genocide suspects who are already in prison are just ordinary people who cannot clearly explain how the genocide was planned and executed.

He further explained that during the night of 6th April 1994 [same date President Habyarimana died in a plane crash], when the so-called crisis committee was formed, Colonel Theoneste Bagosora was made the chief of staff. During a meeting with the then UNAMIR [UN Assistance Mission to Rwanda] commander, General Romeo Dallaire, and Colonel (Luc Marshall), a Belgian officer serving with UNAMIR, Colonel Bagosora refused to withdraw his troops from Kigali city, saying that they will remain stationed in the capital for security purposes. According to Colonel (Balthazar Ndeginka), this was contrary to the demand by UNAMIR that all warring troops should be taken back to their stations.

On this note, Colonel (Balthazar Ndeginka) said that this would explain the role that Colonel Theoneste Bagosora could have had in the genocide and killings that occurred after the death of President Habyarimana. When asked what character Colonel Theoneste Bagosora was, Colonel (Balthazar Ndeginka) quoted the Arusha negotiations [between the former leadership, the Rwandan Patriotic Front and Rwanda-based political parties] in which Colonel Theoneste Bagosora was a hardliner. Earlier, during the Arusha peace negotiations, Colonel Bagosora is quoted as saying that since the power-sharing process had dwindled, he was going back to Kigali to organize an apocalypse for the Rwandese people. Colonel Theoneste Bagosora was arrested in Cameroon over the weekend on suspicion of having masterminded the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

Rwanda: Foreign Minister Urges International Extradition Efforts

EA1303114196 Kigali Radio Rwanda in French
1800 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Rwandan Government has called on the United States, the Kingdom of Belgium, France, and Germany to assist in steps being taken to extradite Rwanda Colonel [Theoneste] Bagosora, who was recently arrested in Cameroon, so that he can be tried by the Rwandan courts.

This was stated by the Rwandan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Anastase Gasana, during separate meetings today with the foreign ambassadors to Rwanda: Mr. (Robert Griebbin) of the United States, Mr. Frank de Coninck of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Jacques Courbin of France, and Mr. August Hummel of Germany. Minister Gasana also called for these friendly countries to exchange with Rwanda documentation — both written and audio-visual — in their possession: documentation related to the files of Rwandan genocide and massacre suspects.

The four ambassadors, who were received successively by the foreign minister, promised the head of Rwandan diplomacy that they would convey the Rwandan Government's concern to the relevant authorities in their respective countries.

The same concern was also expressed by Minister Gasana during talks he held with the OAU secretary general, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, during a stopover at [Kigali-] Kanombe International Airport today. The OAU secretary general promised to support Rwanda's efforts to have Colonel Bagosora extradited to Rwanda by the Cameroonian Government.

Rwanda: Hutu Activist Discusses Repatriation Issues

AB1203220596 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN
in French 12 Mar 96 p 19

["Exclusive" interview with Innocent Butare, executive secretary of the Rally for Democracy and the Return of Refugees to Rwanda, by Eugene Kadet in Abidjan; date not given — first paragraph FRATERNITE MATIN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A month after holding its regular congress at Bukavu in Zaire, the RDR [Rally for Democracy and the Return of Refugees to Rwanda] executive committee sent its executive secretary Innocent Butare to Abidjan to thank Cote d'Ivoire for receiving nearly 200 Rwandan refugees, and also to ask the Ivorian Government and people to help promote dialogue between the refugees and the government of Kigali.

Somalia

Somalia: Warlord Mahdi's United Somali Congress Holds Convention

*AB1203125796 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Supporters of the United Somali Congress faction led by Ali Mahdi Mohamed have been meeting in the capital this weekend. One of the main items on the agenda was to try to patch up some of the holes in the leadership following a spate of defections to the rival SNA [Somali National Alliance] wing of the USC [United Somali Congress] led by General Aidid. And Ali Mahdi has now emerged as the unchallenged political, social, and militia leader in his area of Mogadishu. Our correspondent, Ali Musa Abdi, faxed this report:

The convention was a major meeting of the Somali Salvation Alliance wing of the United Somali Congress faction. The meeting kicked off at 0830 yesterday morning at the former National Security headquarters in north Mogadishu and was attended by more than 800 politicians, clan elders, religious men, and representatives of other factions within the Somali Salvation Alliance, the coalition of factions opposed to Gen. Aidid's Somali National Alliance. The meeting was chaired by the former mayor of Mogadishu and prominent Abgal politician, (Ali Ugas Abdullei). Ali Mahdi Mohamed was elected chairman of the United Somali Congress, a post which has been vacant since the defection of the former chairman, Mohamed Qanyare Afreh, to Gen. Aidid's SNA last year. A secretary general and four vice chairmen were also elected. One of the newly elected vice chairmen is (Shaykh Seif Shaykh Mohamed) who heads the High Shari'ah Implementation Council responsible for implementing Islamic law. Yesterday's congress also elected 187 members of the faction's central executive and permanent committees.

Ali Mahdi's candidacy for the chairmanship was contested by (Haji Ali Daud) who, like Ali Mahdi himself, was a hotelier before the civil war. But (Haji Ali Daud) only won four out of 120 votes cast. After the election, the conference chairman, (Ali Ugas Abdullei), pronounced the exercise a complete success and very democratic. Ali Mahdi himself warned those called greedy elements poised to sabotage the peaceful life of north Mogadishu. He did not say who these elements were, but said they were manipulated from abroad and worked under the cover of Islam to cheat the community of the faithful.

Ali Mahdi's main rival in the north Mogadishu political spectrum, (Abdurahman Gabo Mohamed), said the election of Ali Mahdi showed that nothing had changed in his faction. If another man had been elected, he said, he could have worked with the faction, but he said they are just playing the same old tape they have been playing for six year and added: We can't stand this political stalemate any longer.

Somalia: Fighting Breaks Out Between Aidid, Mahdi Militiamen

*AB1203184696 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has been an outbreak of fighting in the Somali capital today. It happened on the Green Line, which separates Ali Mahdi's territory, in the south, and that of General Aidid, in the north. Our Mogadishu correspondent Ali Musa Abdi faxed us this report:

At least two people died and four were injured in fierce fighting at the Green Line today. Eyewitnesses at the Ali Khamen Junction said shooting began when a lorry carrying wheat flour from north Mogadishu tried to cross into south Mogadishu. It was said that the lorry was trying to evade taxes imposed by Gen. Aidid's militia. The witnesses said that the lorry was carrying militiamen belonging to Aidede to help it avoid being asked for tax, but a quarrel broke out and shooting began.

The opposing groups used rocket grenades, machine guns, and anti-aircraft missiles. Four donkeys at a nearby well were also killed in the crossfire, and two food markets closed, as well as nearby shops. The Ali Khamen Junction was forced to close for several hours preventing all traffic flows.

Clan elders and senior officials from Aidid's government rushed to the area after the shootout in an effort to ease the tension. The warring militiamen were eventually separated, but the area remains tense. Militiamen loyal to General Ali Mahdi Mohamed took up defensive positions along the Green Line in case fighting spread into their area.

This is the second time in four days that Gen. Aidid's militiamen have waged gun battles in this area. Meanwhile, Radio South Mogadishu, which supports Aidid, remains off the air. There seems to be an ongoing dispute among Aidid's supporters as to who should run the radio operation.

Women also participate extensively in all areas of government and Libya has set up the first military academy for women.

Its system of rule is unique, says Alzubedi. Conceived by al-Qadhdhafi, it is a variation of socialism and is an alternative to capitalism and communism.

Tourism is a rapidly growing industry with tens of thousands of Europeans visiting Libya every year. Some of the oldest archeological sites in the Mediterranean — with remains from the Roman, Greek, Phoenician, Byzantine and Arab worlds — are found all over the Libyan coast and desert. "We have beautiful beaches and mountains. Our climate is the warmest in the Mediterranean," boasts Alzubedi.

However, it is not often Libya is associated merely with trade and cultural links. As an arch-critic of the West, especially the United States, al-Qadhdhafi is often portrayed in global media as a supporter of "terrorism". "That emanates from the fact that we have been supporting liberation movements. These same movements were classified as terrorists, but many of their leaders — from Mandela to (Yasser) Arafat — are now heads of state," says Alzubedi.

LIBERATION STRUGGLES

He says Western powers often maintained "normal" relations with countries where struggles for liberation were being waged. And because his country supported liberation movements, it is natural for the West to tarnish their image, he says. "Those powers try to pressure us into accepting their position [words indistinct] in the way the Americans respond to Libya, he says. "They are being hypocritical in condemning the country as the Americans and Europeans are doing business with us — either directly or indirectly."

Paranoia against Islam, Alzubedi says, was first articulated by former US president Richard Nixon, who said after the collapse of communism that the main threat would be from the Islamic world. "We don't view the world in the same way they do. They are creating enemies so they can justify the military spending to their people," he says.

Terrorism and communism are also used as a way to dominate smaller countries — when "superpowers" say a threat exists, they can make excuses to interfere, he says.

Libya's poor image in South Africa and other parts of the world is largely due to the fact that our international news is received from "third parties" global television services like CNN and Sky-TV which are known not to be fair to Libya, he says.

He admits that sanctions after the bombing by Libyans of the Pan- Am flight over Lockerbie in Scotland has affected them badly. "There is suffering because air restrictions mean medical supplies are not always delivered on time. There's now heavier road traffic to neighbouring countries, which has seen an increase in accidents."

BOMBING SUSPECTS

Libya offered to hand over the two bombing suspects to Dutch authorities so they could be tried in The Hague, but the offer was refused and the stalemate persists.

Now that South Africa is part of the world community and enjoys respect internationally, it can play a significant role as a broker in international peace efforts, says Alzubedi.

"There has always been great interest in South Africa among Libyans. For a long time we supported the struggle of the people against apartheid," he says.

"Now that there is a government led by a freedom fighter like Nelson Mandela, we want very much to be partners."

South Africa: ANC Warns Against 'Obsession' With Succession Question

MB1003171096 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1352 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG March 10 SAPA — The public should stop praising President Nelson Mandela solely and give other African National Congress leaders a chance, the ANC said on Sunday.

The party said despite Mandela trying to quell rumors of his ill health by succumbing to a battery of medical tests, people were still obsessed with the question of who was to rule the country next.

"At the core of this obsession is what President Mandela warned against: praising him, yet denouncing all other ANC leaders, with particular reference to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki," the ANC said in a statement.

The ANC said all of its leaders stuck to its fundamental principles and were "an integral part of an ANC collective..."

South Africa: Mandela Spokesman Assures 'Thorough' Security for Meeting

MB1203151596 Johannesburg SAFm Radio Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Presidential spokesperson Parks Mankahlana says there's no need for Inkatha

— Growing separatism in the Eastern Cape as it faced poverty and resisted attempts to undermine its traditional leadership; and

— The "civics" beginning to rebuild as a protest movement, ready to capitalise on urban discontent.

Prof Schlemmer said that Afrikaans had been dislodged by "bad English" as the language of communication, as has happened in countries like Malaysia, Nigeria and India.

Now a new threat to Afrikaans had emerged, particularly in education. Following conflicts in the Northern Province, the Supreme Court had ruled that the Constitution made it impossible for a student to be refused admission on language grounds.

The implications were becoming clear, as at Stellenbosch University. Afrikaans institutions would come under pressure to become bilingual, and then switch entirely to English. "Hence, one sees the early signs of a revival of a cultural siege mentality among Afrikaners, and the attraction of some form of Afrikaans self-determination will inevitably grow," said Prof Schlemmer.

One of the consequences was the 45 percent unqualified support among Whites in Pretoria for a volkstaat in the area. There was a lack of faith in the future governance of South Africa, due to rising crime, rent and service boycotts, taxi violence and fears of affirmative action.

"Taken together, one can say that political powerlessness, concerns about governance, and what are received to be attacks on the status of Afrikaans are in the process of reinforcing ethnic consciousness and simulating a process of ethnic remobilisation."

Other manifestations of Afrikaner dissent included a rapid rise in sales of Afrikaans literature, Freedom Front initiatives to develop voluntary rural self-protection units, and the beginnings of a rates boycott in emulation of the Black townships.

The new phase in Afrikaans ethnic mobilisation would not achieve results very easily. However, the Pretoria survey showed that no fewer than 74 percent of Afrikaners saw "confrontation" as a strategic option.

"Evidence indicates that the mood is becoming rebellious, but this is not necessarily a guarantee of action. The socio-economic circumstances of most Afrikaners are still far too comfortable, and they have far too much to lose, to entertain any risks of confrontation with the state."

South Africa: Ex-Commander To Expose 'Cream' of Security Chiefs

MB1203171996 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans
11 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by Ingo Capararo]

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Vlakplaas commander, Colonel Eugene de Kok, who is currently standing trial on, among others, murder charges, wants to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission so that he can "bring down with him the cream of the security chiefs."

He wants the generals to get this message because they think they are surrounded by concrete, resistant to radioactivity. Col. de Kok said in a series of exclusive interviews at Central Prison with London's THE OBSERVER.

"The National Party can not deny it was not aware of what was going on. It did not remain in power because the majority of people supported it. It stayed in power because of people like myself."

His anger is not directed at liberation movements, which he tried to destroy, writes Phillip van Niekerk who conducted the interviews. De Kok has, according to him, a grudge against the people on whose behalf, he is to be punished.

"How fair is the justice system if it takes one man and makes a Rudolf Hess of Africa of him?" he asked while explaining why he wants to testify before the commission. Hess was a senior Nazi leader who later died in prison after World War II.

Col. de Kok says he could assist with solving many problems. He could even try to reduce the violence in KwaZulu/Natal, he alleged.

He worships President Mandela and brands him as "the man we have seen in 2,000 years that's nearest to Jesus Christ." After Mandela, the politician he has the most respect for is Winnie Mandela. "I have a lot of time for the old lady. She is a toughy. Alongside President Mandela she has more brains... than her entire party put together. She can handle misfortune. She just carries on. She is unstoppable."

Col. de Kok makes no secret about the fact that he murdered people, but says he has "never shot someone for farting on his fence."

"Each time you kill, there's a sort of emptiness inside you. When you get home, you see your wife and kids and you think that it could be your turn next."

Angola

Angola: Portuguese Foreign Minister Offers More Troops

LD1203233396 *Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe* 2200 GMT 12 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Portuguese Government is prepared to increase our participation in the UN contingent in Angola. This guarantee was given by Foreign Minister Jaime Gama to Angolan Prime Minister Marcolin Moco when they met in Luanda today.

Jaime Gama also expressed Portugal's total willingness to help the consolidation of the peace process and the tasks of national reconstruction to follow. Paulo Juliao reports:

[Juliao] [passage omitted] The highest point of the day was the meeting this afternoon with Prime Minister Marcolino Moco to whom Jaime Gama offered Portugal's unreserved assistance to the consolidation of the Angolan peace process — namely, by increasing the number of Portuguese Blue Helmets on Angolan territory.

[Begin Gama recording] Today the international community, the UN, all the world countries, are committed to the peace process, as are all the Angolans. The Portuguese Government has already decided to increase our participation in UNAVEM [United Nations Angola Verification Mission].

Angola is one of the places where we have international responsibilities in the context of the UN. The Portuguese contingent in UNAVEM has already been increased once and will be increased again to whatever number is required for the consolidation of the peace process. [end recording]

[Juliao] The Portuguese foreign minister said that he had met goodwill on the Angolan Government's part to ensure the realization of the peace process, and pledged his country's unconditional support. He gave similar guarantees to the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leadership during a meeting at the Joint Commission.

Towards the evening Jaime Gama paid a visit to the Angolan finance minister to talk about money, and expressed Portugal's willingness to participate in the economic reconstruction of the country:

[Begin Gama recording] The prime minister of Angola and the Angolan Government are very committed indeed to strengthening relations with Portugal. This is rather felicitous, for it is also the goal of the Portuguese Government which makes relations with Angola an absolute foreign policy priority.

We, the two nations, must look to the future. The 21st century is almost upon us. Angola is sure to see the consolidation of its peace process and will become a major power in southern Africa. [end recording].

[Juliao] Portugal sees Angola as the priority of priorities. Be that as it may, Jaime Gama also raised the matter of Angola's debt to Portugal which amounts to more than 190 million dollars. It will be discussed in greater detail at bilateral talks in Lisbon in two months' time. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

Mozambique: Dhlakama Reacts to President Chissano's Speech

MB1303101496 *Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese* 7 Mar 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] leader Afonso Dhlakama, today issued a communique reacting to the head of state's speech at the opening of the Assembly of the Republic session on 29 February. The last paragraph of this document says that "in my capacity as leader of the opposition, I demand a public debate on the speech with President Chissano without a time limit as he had in the Assembly of the Republic when answering deputies' questions."

After [words indistinct] in which he says that "once more the Chissano government has shown that it is not ready to change the current difficult situation faced by our people because it lacks a program and there has been no improvement during his first governing year. The Dhlakama communique, contained in a 12-chapter text, discusses corruption in the Defense and Security Forces; the incidents in Maringue, Dombe, and Gorongosa; mines; culture and youth; economy and training of businessmen; local government; tax invasion; traditional power; the Southern African Development Community; and the Commonwealth. Finally, there is a chapter with conclusions, where he states that "My brother Chissano's speech is a fiasco because it does not deal with the nation's most burning issues such as education, health, the cost of living, concrete measures to fight chronic corruption, and the lack of capital facing our industries."

On corruption, Afonso Dhlakama points out the fact that no one is ever accused of being involved in corruption, noting that the president is a "classical example of the paradox of CORRUPTION WITHOUT CORRUPTED OR CORRUPTORS." In this chapter he also notes that "Chissano's government knows who the corrupt people are, however, they are so busy with their own affairs that they do nothing but witness passively the increase of corruption in Mozambique."

the understanding of facts, as happened when civilian society denounced Manuel Antonio's irregularities."

Finally, on traditional power, the communique says: "It is regrettable that President Chissano needed 20 years to realize what had already been proved: that traditional authority was established before colonial rule and cannot be denied."

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Opposition Leader Sithole Withdraws From Presidential Race

*MB1203180796 London BBC World Service
in English 1740 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Zimbabwean opposition leader, Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, has withdrawn

from next weekend's presidential elections. In a statement to his supporters, he said that because of what he called a government campaign to discredit him, his participation in the election would be a meaningless exercise. Mr. Sithole, who is 76, is due to go on trial next month on charges of plotting to assassinate President Mugabe. In parliamentary elections last year, his ZANU [Zimbabwe African National Union]-Ndonga Party won just two of the 150 seats. Mr. Sithole's withdrawal from the presidential race leaves Bishop Abel Muzorewa as the only challenger to Mr. Mugabe.

Liberia

Liberia: Taylor Captures Todi, Installs Civilian Rule

*AB1203165096 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Charles Taylor's men are on the move again in Liberia. Since Friday [8 Mar], the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] has overrun Kakata and Bong Mines taking them from Roosevelt Johnson's ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] militia, and now the fighting has spread to the western district Todi where ULIMO clashed with ECOMOG troops earlier this year. Our correspondent, Jonathan Peleyle, is in Kakata. He telexed this report:

According to eyes witnesses, NPFL militiamen carrying rocket-propelled grenade launchers, bazukas, and AK-47 rifles, crossed into Todi by canoes at dawn on Sunday [10 March]. One man, who escaped, a rubber farmer, told me the battle of Todi District was very fast and it took both civilians and ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson faction] fighters unaware. He said when we came out of the bush after hours of fierce fighting, NPFL men had already hoisted their flags in the area and set up command posts and committees to evacuate civilians from the area. There are reports, however, that the NPFL only succeeded in dislodging Roosevelt Johnson's [word indistinct] from Todi because a large number of the Johnson men had already surrendered to the West African peacekeeping force before the NPFL hit the district. Lieutenant General (Mavin Sorbando), an NPFL commander, who led last Friday's attack on Kakata, yesterday confirmed that his forces had attacked and captured Todi District. But, the general declined to say how many men he had killed or lost in the entire process.

Meanwhile, heavily armed peacekeepers and troops of the police rapid response unit have begun deploying in Kakata following the handing over of the town by NPFL President Charles Taylor yesterday. The town had been crowded by NPFL fighters, mostly child soldiers, since they dislodged Roosevelt Johnson's forces last Friday.

Speaking at a local Methodist Church before turning the captured town over to the peacekeeping troops, Mr. Taylor said: I am ordering my forces out of Kakata in the interest of peace. The NPFL leader codenamed the overrunning of Kakata by his men as Operation Restore Hope. The latest fighting in Kakata left the town severely vandalized and looted, making resettlement

difficult for thousands of residents who have been returning since fighting subsided on Saturday evening.

Nigeria

Nigeria: General Says Military Solidarity Not Disrupted by Coup Plot

*AB1303114896 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English
0900 GMT 13 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defense Headquarters says last year's abortive coup has not damaged the corporate solidarity of the military. The director of defense information, Brigadier General Fred Chijuka, told newsmen in Lagos that the arrest and trial were not arbitrary as only the people involved were picked for their roles by security agents. He said the incident had taught the military a lesson that all hands should be on deck to work for the return of power to civilians.

Nigeria: 'Severe' Fuel Shortage Brings Lagos to 'Virtual Standstill'

*AB1203173396 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[From the African news]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A severe fuel shortage in Nigeria has brought the country's main industrial city, Lagos, to a virtual standstill. Correspondents say queues have built up around petrol stations, and many people are unable to get to work. The authorities, which have blamed the problem on salesmen hoarding fuel to push up prices, have announced harsh measures against those involved.

Nigeria is the largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, but the output of its refineries is not enough for domestic use.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: Head of State Meets With Ivorian Foreign Minister

*AB1203211396 Freetown SLBS Radio in English
2000 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Mr. Amara Essy, this morning presented a special message from the Ivorian head of state, President Konan Bedie, to the chairman of the NPRC [National Provisional Ruling Council] and heads of state, Brigadier General Julius Maada Bio, at State House. The Ivorian foreign minister, Mr. Amara Essy, told the head of state that he was in Sierra Leone to brief him on the outcome of the two meetings, hosted

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